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Land Trust answers community questions

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A recent Facebook post has put the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) on the map.

And perhaps not in a good way.

But the director and founding member of the nature conservation organization, Sheila Ziman, wants to set the record straight. "There is so much misinformation out there," she said, "and none of it is true. It's really sad."

The post went up last week by a private Facebook user, and brought forward a concern about the Highlands Corridor, which is 100,000 hectares of unceded Crown, municipal, and private land connecting three provincial parks across Haliburton County.

The land has been designated as significant by the HHLT due to its rich wetlands, forests, and species at risk that reside within the extensive property. "The Highlands Corridor offers a nature-based solution to building climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity," says the Land Trust website.

The corridor has been in talks for years. "We've had open houses, we've been on the radio, we've been in the newspapers," said Ziman. "I'm not sure how this is the first time so many are hearing about the project."

But the concerns stemmed from one phrase the Facebook user shared: "This designation will not allow any of the following activities: hunting, fishing, trapping, logging, mining, quarrying, use of motorized vehicles, horse riding, camping, cycling, unrestrained pets, fires, removal of rocks, minerals, or animals, or drone use."

The post went on to say: "Are any of these things your family enjoys? Any of these things pay your bills? We all should be outraged!"

The post was shared nearly 1,000 times on Facebook, with hundreds of comments pouring in; the number increasing even as this paper goes to press. All local media agencies were tagged on the post, and able to see the conversation in detail.

On Feb. 10, the Land Trust issued a formal letter to the press. "HHLT is aware that mistaken information regarding our Highlands Corridor initiative is presently circulating across social media," it starts. "While we welcome public conversation regarding all of our work, it is essential that those conversations be based on accurate facts."

The letter went on to outline that trail use, as well as use by motorized vehicles, are allowed in the conservation area. Hunting, fishing, and trapping would also be allowed. "We recognize these heritage and outdoor activities are important in our community and for tourism, and they keep our economy vibrant," reads the letter. "We support their ongoing use on Crown land designated as a Conservation Reserve."

The only areas that would be minorly impacted would be logging, the development of new quarries, and mining on very specific, designated sections.

"We actually have a letter of support from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters," noted Ziman, "as well as a collaboration with Ontario Trails Protection Alliance (OTPA), who focuses on ATV use and motorized vehicles."

see STAKEHOLDER page 2

Nothing but net
The Hal High Jr. Boys Basketball team faced off against Norwood High School last week, and won 66 to 39. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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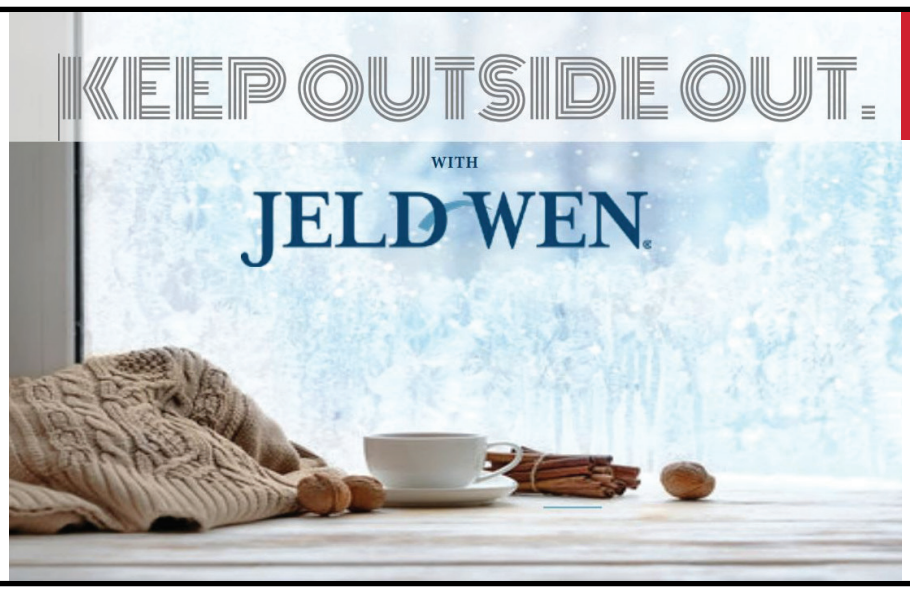

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Merged public health unit names new boss

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Dr. Thomas Piggott is the acting medical officer of health at the region's newly merged public health unit.

Depending on the approval of Health Minister Sylvia Jones, Piggott will take up the reins of the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough (HKNP) Health Unit, which is comprised of the former Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge unit and Peterborough Public Health.

Ron Black, the board of health's chairperson, lauded the appointment as a step in the right direction.

"Dr. Piggott brings excellent knowledge of our community and public health to the role, and we are confident that our mandate of protecting and promoting the health of all residents will be met and exceeded upon," Black said.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, who was medical officer of health at the former Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge unit, is the deputy medical officer of health role.

"We had two great candidates who challenged the board process and both incumbents were very effective leaders of their respective organizations," said Black.

Piggott is already a familiar face to many in the community as the medical officer of health of the former Peterborough Public Health.

As an accomplished public health physician with a breadth of professional experience and community service, he will continue to oversee public health initiatives that enhance the well-being of the community.

Piggott will work to design senior leadership team responsibilities and design a second public health physician position to strengthen medical coverage for the new organization.

> *"We had two great candidates who challenged the board process and both incumbents were very effective leaders of their respective organizations*
>
> — Ron Black, Board of Health

Piggott started with Peterborough Public Health in December 2021.

He brings experience working at various levels of public health in Canada and internationally. Prior to Peterborough, he worked as MOH and VP lead for rural and remote health in the northern region of Labrador and as a field doctor with Doctors Without Borders in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Snow place like home

The fire meter sign that lives in front of the *Echo* office in downtown Haliburton peeks out above the snow drift. On Feb. 12, Haliburton County was blasted with a snow storm, which accumulated over a foot of snow. The storm was a side effect of a large weather system travelling across the United States. Minden, Algonquin Highlands, and the County of Haliburton each declared a significant weather event, and Trillium Lakelands District School Board made the unprecedented decision to close down schools. "We hope students will take this opportunity to catch up on work, road a book, and/or get outside to play," read a note to parents from TLDSB. By Thursday morning, the storm had passed, and many spent the day shovelling their driveways. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Stakeholder seeking 'transparency' from Land Trust

from page 1

On Feb. 13, the OTPA issued a formal statement in regards to the ongoing misinformation, clarifying their collaborative approach with the Land Trust, and their optimism towards working together in a mutually beneficial way with one goal in mind: to protect and preserve the natural property they all share.

The letter opens with: "An alliance of four of Ontario's largest motorized recreational trail use organizations is now preparing to work collaboratively on plans that will protect access to trails within a proposed 100,000-hectare 'corridor' linking three provincial parks and a vast network of trail systems throughout the Haliburton/ Kawartha region." The full letter, which was sent to the press upon approval, can be seen on page 11 of this *Echo* for further context.

In terms of private property, Ziman noted that the Land Trust cannot and will not touch someone else's land. "Private property is private property, the only one who can touch that is the government," she said.

John Davidson of Wilberforce was the individual who sent the original letter to politicians, sounding the alarm bells. "I guess you could say I am kind of the instigator," he chuckled. Davidson was a senior lands and parks technician for the MNR during his working days. "I sent an email to Laurie Scott and other politicians, outlining my concerns," he said. "When I allowed the email to be posted on social media, it drew a lot of attention."

The primary concern on Davidson's part, is what he believes to be a lack of transparency from the Land Trust. He noted that while doing his research, he uncovered a proposal (known as the Milburn Kendrick proposal) which he said would tie up 8,900 hectares of public land.

"Some people, including HHLT members, say we have it wrong and need not be concerned. I suggest those people dive deep into those websites before forming an opinion," Davidson said, noting that they all want sustainability for the land.

"We don't want unnecessary overreach, that will adversely affect our local economy," he went on. "At a time when tariffs are a looming threat to all of our livelihoods, should we not expect complete transparency and public input before decisions of this nature are made? We don't feel that is too much to ask."

> *"Private property is private property, the only one who can touch that is the government.*
>
> — Sheila Ziman, Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

The Land Trust has been answering questions as they have been presented, both online, in-person, and via emails.

Ziman shared that the silver lining to the online backlash is that it's putting the Land Trust on the map, and people are talking about it. "We are responding to any reasonable questions that come through," she said. She did note it is taking some time, though, so she has asked for some patience as they wade through the conversations. Ziman has also noticed an uptick to their social media and website platforms, and has had a series of thought-provoking and thorough conversations with local stakeholders. Generally, they are able to work towards a place of understanding.

The Land Trust was summoned by County Council on Feb. 12, and were provided with an opportunity to clarify their intentions to staff and council members alike. While a select few audience members vocalized their thoughts, Ziman felt it was an important conversation to bring to the table. County councillors noted that they will take some time to receive information and feedback, as well as dialogue from provincial representatives once the heat of the ongoing election has cooled, and council members will reconnect with the Land Trust at the county's upcoming March 26 meeting.

New council building to reflect county's history

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County is getting closer to moving to new digs.

The county has earmarked a budget of $1.6 million for renovations at the Land Registry Office (LRO) and the administration building workspace for council and county staff. That's $1.2 million from the department and $421,337 taken from reserve funds.

Council didn't make any decisions about the project when it met Feb. 12. It accepted a staff report for information purposes.

The building improvements will provide appropriate work and meeting space to best conduct county business. An improved public space will be able to host more members of the community, said Gary Dyke, the county's CAO.

"We are quite confident that we will be able to bring it all in with the budget-approved amount," Dyke said.

The buildings' overhaul is to provide accessible, safe, efficient, and functional spaces to meet all regulations and building and fire codes. County staff and a consultant are collaborating on the contractor and procurement documents.

It's hoped the request for tenders will be posted by March 28 to close April 22. The work could be awarded then by May 14 with construction to get underway later that month.

A substantial portion of the work is hoped to be done by the time September rolls around. The final inspection is slated for Oct. 10.

Work at the LRO building will include a new council chambers, washrooms, meeting room, kitchen and lobby area. The building will be updated to conform with building and fire codes.

Improved access and entrances, compliant washrooms, a lift to access top floor, and new AV system will enable the facility to better conform to accessibility standards. Plumbing and electrical upgrades will ensure compliance with current building codes. New HVAC systems and lighting retrofits will optimize energy efficiency.

At the administration building, renovations will include converting council chambers and top floor kitchen into office space, washrooms, basement kitchen, storage, and meeting rooms. Renovated spaces will conform with building and fire codes. Pretty much the same work as at the LRO to achieve the best energy efficiency and accessibility.

Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor at Algonquin Highlands, said the interior visuals and the aesthetics of the council chamber is very important.

Such aspects as colour choice, furniture, window furnishings add much to a space. She said she can appreciate that those may be minor details given a big project that has been underway for a long time.

"How the council chamber looks is quite important to suggest how people are welcome in that space," she said. "How they're represented in that space. How it shows that we have pride in our community, how it shows that we have pride in our culture, in where we're going."

She asked about what kind of process is involved in decided how a space will look.

Sylvin Cloutier, the county's public works director, said staff has spoken with consultants about those project points and finishing touches.

"We're anticipating they will reflect the county colours that you see as you drive through the county," Cloutier said and added that art will be included to reflect the county's past and its present.

"We're trying to put as much of the local flair to the council chamber as possible," he said.

Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, suggested getting local visual artists to contribute paintings.

"I know that there might be insurance issues associated with that, but I'd like to investigate because I'm quite sure that local artists would love to display their work," Danielsen said. "It would be adding to the idea of community and participation."

Coun. Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said he's been hearing about the project for two years but this is the first time he's seen so much as a drawing about plans.

"It's more efficient to have the council chamber in the building where you have your staff," Fearrey said. "To me, this is a boondoggle."

He said he has so many questions that he can't support the project moving forward.

"I think we need to examine it carefully," he said.

Coun. Bob Carter, Minden Hills' mayor, said part of the reason the project was greenlighted was because funds for it wasn't affecting the 2025 capital budget. Money was coming from reserves and any money that needed to be borrowed would affect the 2026 budget.

"Now seeing it, I'm concerned about the cost," Carter said.

He said he doesn't want the county getting detailed pricing from vendors when it isn't known if the project is going to be approved.

"The concept of moving the council chambers to the land division building was always discussed," Dyke said. "That was the primary focus."

As for the amount of money to be spent, Dyke said that was talked about during the 2025 county operating and capital budget process. He conceded that aspects like aesthetics weren't discussed.

> ***"How the council chamber looks is quite important to suggest how people are welcome in that space... How it shows that we have pride in our community, how it shows that we have pride in our culture."***
>
> — Algonquin Highlands Councillor Jennifer Dailloux

"Unless the project is going to be cancelled, we have to do this work to get to the point where (we'll know) this is actually what we're going to pay for the building," Dyke said.

Dailloux broached the topic of the four lower tier municipalities amalgamating into a single entity in the future. Would the layout of the new council space be sufficient for a possibly amalgamated council.

"The jury is still out," she said. "There is still a lot of people in favour. There are a lot of people against. That decision hasn't been reached. It may be reached in the next 10 years."

She sees nine chairs on the drawings, she said.

"In the hypothetical, yes," Dyke said about the facility being able to accommodate a higher number of councillors.

"I'm on the other side of the fence 100 per cent in regard to assuming there's going to be amalgamation," said Coun. Walt McKechnie, Dysart's deputy mayor. "I have a lot of friends in the Kawartha Lakes area and I can give you a lot of facts but I'm not going to bore you with them right now. Most of you don't want to listen to them. But it doesn't work."

"This is a repeat of the conversation we had at budget time where we did give direction to keep going on a two-building approach," Dailloux said. "I'm concerned that we are now pulling the rug out from under staff who are doing what we've asked them to do."

Danielsen said deferring a decision will end up costing the county more money.

Land title search reveals surprise property merger

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Highlands East just recently became the owner of a cemetery it had been maintaining for years.

Kim Roberts, the township's junior planner, told council during its Jan. 28 meeting that a lawyer contacted the municipality in September 2024 on behalf of the purchaser of the 1285 Essonville Line property. Known as the Essonville Cemetery, a request was made to formally buy that land.

The cemetery property comprises about half a hectare of land and is fenced off from neighbouring properties.

It was discovered through the search of title for the 1285 Essonville Line property that the cemetery had inadvertently merged on title with the adjacent property at 1251 Essonville Line.

The township's staff had a sit-down with lawyers for the property's seller and buyer, got feedback from the municipal solicitor, and compiled a report for council. Staff recommended that costs to survey the cemetery be shared and then transferred back to the township.

That report was discussed during an October 2024 closed council session.

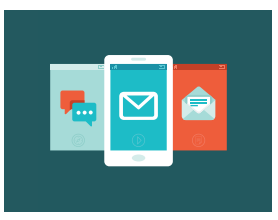
The survey was done in December 2024 and registered in January.

The required bylaw was prepared for council's adoption.

"Obviously, the benefits here is that the landowner will be in a position to finalize the real estate transaction and the municipality will have clear title to the cemetery lands that we have maintained for many, many years," Roberts said.

Mayor Dave Burton thanked Roberts for getting the matter cleaned up.

"It's been long overdue," he said.



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Politcal profiles

Scott back on the ballot

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Despite rumblings that candidate Laurie Scott would not be running for the Conservative Party again, she has confirmed that her name is once again on the ballot. "I still have a lot of projects that I would like to get done for our constituents," she said. "There are exciting opportunities happening across Haliburton County."

Scott shared that her number one passion is healthcare, and with a background in nursing, she has no shortage of insight in regards to the ongoing challenges to the medical system. "I really do have this passion," she said, "and that's why I want to continue for another round."

When asked about the closure of the Minden ER, Scott referenced the shortage of human resources. "(Closing the ER) wasn't something that we wanted or expected," she said. "But the hospital board does the day–to-day management, and now there is new leadership in place at HHHS."

Scott shared that with the provincial government, there is a short, medium, and long term plan for improving healthcare needs. She noted that currently there is $85 million designated from the province for these initiatives. "We funded the application for the Kawartha North Family Health Team to open family care," she said, in reference to the urgent care clinic in Minden. "They are funded for two nurse practitioners, but have only been able to fill one role."

This ties to the human resources concern she alluded to earlier.

But Scott and the Conservatives are hopeful that by implementing additional resources, such as pharmacists increasing their scope of practice, then the weight will be taken off the ER. "I understand that it can all be very emotional," she said. "But the hospitals have master plans in place, and we work with them to make sure they get funding."

When asked about the timing of the snap election, called by Premier Doug Ford on Jan. 28, Scott cited the ongoing topics of tariffs and President Donald Trump. "Canada is not for sale," she said. "This is all about leadership. Who do we want taking Trump on? The boss (referencing Ford) is a fighter."

Scott shared that she does not intend to be present for any upcoming candidates meetings. "My job is winning this election," she said, "so we've been meeting as many people as we can, face-to-face." Scott has been going door to door, and connecting with people she meets when out and about. "The response has been very positive so far," she said.

Laurie Scott is in the running for the coming election on Feb. 27. She says she stands behind Doug Ford, and thinks he is the best leader against President Donald Trump and his threats to Canada. /FILE

New Blue Party aims to pull further right

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"We're not splitting the right vote," said Jacquie Baker, the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Brock representative for the New Blue Party. "We're the only real Conservative Party."

Formed in 2020 by Jim Karahalios, the New Blue Party aims to return to the original roots of conservative voters. "Our priority is to return accountability to our government," said Baker.

Baker has recently moved to Haliburton County, and had been a long time Conservative voter. But she felt the current PCs were treading too close to the centrist line, and believes in the mandates aligned further right. "We had no home in the Conservative Party," she said. "They had moved so far left, and away from our original priorities."

She noted that the majority of their supporters are "disgruntled PC members," and their movement is starting to grow; with the New Blues currently sitting as the fifth largest political party in Ontario. "The PCs are just Liberals in blue suits," she said.

One of the main objectives for the New Blue party is to cut the carbon tax. The carbon levy was introduced in Ontario in 2019, and is designed to mitigate the harmful impacts of climate change across the province. The incentive is designed to encourage producers to switch from fossil fuel-based energy sources, to renewable alternatives in an effort to aid in environmental initiatives. There is also a tax-free Canada Carbon Rebate available to eligible individuals and families offset the cost of the federal pollution pricing.

"We want to axe the carbon tax," said Baker. "By axing that, we hope to draw manufacturers back to the province."

Baker noted that they also hope to cut the HST from 13, down to 10 per cent, with a long-term goal of removing the tax altogether across Ontario.

While the New Blue did not receive any seats in the last election, Baker believes they are just gaining momentum. "I'll be shocked if we don't win seats this time," she said.

Jacquie Baker believes that the current Conservative policies are too centrist for her liking, and hopes to encourage right-leaning members to vote for the New Blue Party, instead. /submitted

Lantern lit Winter Wonderland event planned for HSAD

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Has it ever been your dream to snowshoe through a lantern-lit forest filled with works of art?

Now you can.

Fleming College's Haliburton School of Art and Design will be hosting their first ever Sculpture Forest Winter Wonderland Event on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.

Both the Haliburton School of Art and Design and the Haliburton Sculpture Forest are ecstatic to welcome visitors to the Winter Wonderland event this winter.

The Sculpture Forest Winter Wonderland event will have something for everyone to do. Jim Blake, curator of Haliburton Sculpture Forest has prepared a guided snowshoeing tour through the sculpture forest, lit by lanterns and accompanied by a representative of the Sculpture Forest. For those with young children or wanting a shorter walk, there will be shorter, unguided experiences for participants to walk through and experience the beauty of the lantern light bouncing through the snow and the trees.

Money raised from the ticket sales will directly contribute to Haliburton art student bursaries that the School of Art and Design offers. These bursaries improve accessibility for anyone wanting to try a class or experience one of their programs.

After walking through the Sculpture Forest, visitors can warm up inside the Great Hall with refreshments generously supplied by Tim Hortons. Inside, guests will be able to tour the facilities, view the artworks on display and take in the creative atmosphere of the school.

Snowshoes will be available to rent from the Haliburton School of Art and Design or the Haliburton Highlands Museum for free.

"The sculptures tell stories," said Blake, "Not only of themselves, but of the artists and of their creation."

The goal of the event is to let the community and students know that the the School of Art and Design "is not just a school, but for a place to come together," said Monika Watson, community outreach and recruitment officer.

This event is the first of three planned events to encourage engagement and visitation to the School of Art and Design. In the summer, there will be a paddle-in event, where participants will be able to visit the college by paddling on Head Lake to the school's dock. In the fall, there will be a hike-in event. For every event that people attend, they will receive a commemorative button. At the end of the year, if you have every commemorative button, you will receive a secret reward.

"It's great fun going to see the Sculpture Forest in the winter," said Blake. There is a plethora of activities to do in the vicinity of Glebe Park including sledding, snowshoeing, and hiking through the snow in the winter. The Haliburton Highlands Museum is nearby, connected to the Sculpture Forest through its trail system.

"It will be a great event," said Blake.

The Haliburton School of Art and Design wants to encourage visitors from throughout the community, not just students. At the school's campus store, there is a wide selection of artworks that visitors can purchase, including things like key chains, stickers, and prints. The store is also home to the Great Canadian Art Machine, filled with unique works that are dispensed from a retro cigarette machine. The school frequently has artworks on display throughout the year, offering a unique experience on every visit.

While being separate entities, the Sculpture Forest has collaborated with the Haliburton School of Art and Design many times over the years. The Sculpture Forest is a non-profit organization that started in 2007. The Haliburton School of Art and Design opened its doors at the current location in 2009. Ever since, they have been close collaborators, with Blake describing the forest as an additional classroom.

"This opportunity can help me with schooling supplies I may need to complete my academic journey this semester," said Emma Rose Chapman, recipient of Haliburton Friends Bursary. " I am so grateful to be granted this bursary, I appreciate it so much to be able to have some financial help!"

"I am deeply grateful for this. I am really enjoying the FAR program and have learned so much," said Jennifer Campbell, another recipient of the bursary. "I am so glad I made the decision to take this program and this bursary will help so much to ease my financial worries."

Tickets are $25 for adults, $15 for students and children 12 and under are free. Tickets must be reserved in advance by calling 705-457-1680.

Sleeping in Cars event aims to surpass $30,000 goal

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Places for People's annual Sleeping in Cars fundraising event is once again asking residents to sleep in their cars to raise awareness of and funds for homelessness in Haliburton County. The annual event began in 2019. This year's event will be held on March 21 at 6 .p.m. located at the Head Lake Park parking lot.

Places for People's mission is to manage and create affordable rental options in Haliburton County. Their primary target is low to medium income individuals who lack access to services such as housing.

After starting Places for People, the organization learned that the demographics in the highest need for housing are young people and the elderly, says Nataly Mylan, lead organizer for the event. When the Sleeping in Cars event first began, the conversations centred around what affordability meant. Now, the discussion revolves around people's proximity to homelessness, even with a full-time job.

Mylan says that one of the greatest struggles in Haliburton County is finding workers in the hospitality, tourism, and manufacturing sectors. With a lack of housing and increased cost of living, there is a ripple effect on the employers in the county.

Especially with Haliburton County relying on a tourism-based economy, the ripple effects of the housing crisis can be frequently felt throughout the county.

"The impression is that this is something that doesn't happen here," said Mylan.

The Sleeping in Cars event is one way that Places for People is trying to raise awareness and tackle the issue of housing needs. They currently own and maintain over 20 properties and are frequently purchasing new properties to offer affordable housing.

Everyone is invited to participate. While there is no set costs, it is asked to pledge at least $50 per vehicle to attend the event.

"Everyone has the ability to make a real difference," said Mylan."It is an incredible exercise in gratitude."

The event can be a powerful tool to show families what some people face to live on a daily basis and get the point across clearly for children, says Mylan.

Every dollar raised at the event will go back towards creating and maintaining affordable housing in Haliburton County.

The Sleeping in Cars event will include campfires, some food, stories told, and the opportunity to sleep overnight in the parking lot of Head Lake Park.

While many last the whole night, Mylan says it is not uncommon for people to leave due to the discomfort. For those that last the entire night, there will be a small breakfast served.

Some tips for comfort for sleeping in your car are to crack your window slightly to avoid moisture build up and to bundle up in preparation for any frigid washroom excursions.

So far, the Sleeping in Cars event has been received positively and has shown people that they can make a clear difference in the county.

For those interested in participating, donating towards the fundraising event, or sponsoring a participant, please visit www.placesforpeople.ca/sleepingin-cars/.

In 2024, Places for People raised over $30,000 and they are confident that they will soar past this goal for 2025.

A young pine marten pops his head over a snow bank in Algonquin Highlands. /TAMMY NASH special to the Echo

points of view

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emily stonehouse

Editorial

I HAVE TO say it.

I feel like someone does.

And trust me, I hummed and hawed on this one. A few weeks ago, I wrote an editorial about how Dysart et al council has made a habit of putting up walls whenever a new idea is brought to the table.

And yes, I received some feedback. Some of it negative, but a surprising amount of it positive.

But I'm not one to burn bridges. So I turned my attention towards other topics of conversation.

And as I was scrolling through Facebook, I noticed that the local Snowmobile Association kicked off Snowmobile Safety Week on Feb. 10. A very worthy cause; where awareness, information and dialogue could save someone's life.

Dysart thought so too. So much so, that they raised a flag in front of the local arena.

But I have to say it. I think someone does.

In July of this past year, Minden Pride approached Dysart council, with a simple ask to fly the Pride flag for one week. A very worthy cause; where awareness, information and dialogue could save someone's life.

But they were met with a different response:

"I don't want flags up at the landfills, arena, or anywhere else. You can have your day like anyone else, that's just my opinion," were Mayor Murray Fearrey's words.

So, I hummed and hawed on this one. As I watched the Snowmobile Association flag be proudly displayed outside our local arena, I thought about how I don't want to burn bridges.

After all, I had just shared my thoughts on a recent closed-minded conversation that our local council had. Did I really want to open up that can of worms again?

But I have to say it.

I think someone does.

Because in a time where the LGBTQIA+ community is consistently being burned, being shoved out, being erased, we can't stay silent.

As we watch America ban terms such as "transgender," "LGBT," "non-binary," to name a few, we cannot sit back and hope that things will simply turn out for the better.

We can't let these things fade into the background. This is a time where we must speak on behalf of those who have been silenced, fight on behalf of those who have been wounded, and stand our ground on behalf of those who have fallen.

I am going to give the benefit of the doubt to our current council, and assume that they did not remember saying 'no' to one group while they didn't bat an eye at another. I am going to hope it was a mistake, an oversight, a blip in their radar. Perhaps they have changed their approach to flying flags in the community. With that in mind, I look forward to seeing a Pride flag outside the arena this coming summer. I'm sure many others do, as well.

Because it's not just about a flag. It's about the stories behind it, the conversations it creates, the representation it entails. Everyone deserves to feel seen, heard, and supported in our community - and that comes in many colours, many shapes, many flags.

Awareness, information and dialogue could save someone's life.

And maybe some bridges are meant to be burned in the process.

So, I had to say it.

And I'm glad I did.

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While the local deer may cause problems for some, for others, they're the world's greatest source of entertainment. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

A walk in the woods

Down Our road

sharon lynch

MONIKA WAS really struggling. The trail had more snow than she'd realized and even though Jim was breaking trail ahead of her, it was still rough going.

However the day couldn't have been better. There was no wind. Deep snow softened the uneven terrain surrounding them, making the world look like a lumpy mattress of white. Jim had told Monika she should just let him know when she wanted to stop to catch her breath. But she hated to do that. It made her feel like an old lady when she saw herself as a robust senior. But there were times she had no choice and had to call a halt.

With the sky an infinite blue dome above them, they continued up and down but mostly up, at least at the beginning. Below them, the river churned and swirled over rocks and icy outcroppings. Its roar meant Monika had to yell when she needed a break. Jim's dog ran ahead, ploughing through the snow in great leaps when he wasn't burying his nose at unseen attractions.

As they made their way Monika couldn't help but remember another snowshoe many years before. She had been a much younger woman in a much different setting. No sound, a level trail and just herself and the winter trees. The highlight had been seeing the old ice house.

It had been constructed of logs without chinking so the air passed through. Now abandoned, it was a vestige of another time. Decades before, the local farmer used to store blocks of ice he had cut from the lake. The blocks were then covered in piles of sawdust, keeping them frozen until needed. Then they'd be lifted by hand with a huge pair of tongs and delivered to people's ice boxes.

Monika still remembered seeing the farmer standing in the cottage doorway, a block of ice dangling at the end of his muscular arm.

But that had been years ago and all that was then left on that wintery afternoon had been the empty, partly collapsed old structure.

On that past snowshoe journey Monika had passed the ice house and moved on through snow and a deep silence. No wind moved the trees or scuttled the white. No critters, not even a blue jay to be seen though tracks big and small were scattered about. Further along she had passed behind cottages boarded up until spring's arrival. There were fewer snowmobiles back then, so the quiet was long and deep and somehow comforting. It had felt to Monika as though only she and the landscape existed at that moment.

By contrast on this day, the roar of the river filled the air. No other sound except for her own sometimes slightly laboured breathing as she and Jim continued along the snowy trail.

When they returned to their starting point, red cheeks and stiff fingers not withstanding, she was glad they had climbed the trail and equally glad it was over. Lunch at a local eatery in town would offer the perfect finish.

Indeed it was the icing on the cake after their wintery excursion. As she waited for her soup to arrive Monika noted the other diners tucking into their meals. 'Hat heads' abounded as folks took refuge from the weather and their hunger in a warm and friendly place.

The aroma of hot food and coffee swirled around her and Jim. Seeing so many families together, sharing the meal and the day gave Monika a pleasant glow. How different this is, she thought, from eating at a fast-food franchise in the city. Here was real food on real dishes in a unique and personal setting.

Jim commented on the great conditions they had experienced on the trail, saying he hoped they'd do it again soon. Monika murmured agreement, wanting to be a good friend and willing adventurer. But inside, what she was really looking forward to was a big glass of wine and a good book by the wood stove. Winter was great but sometimes the best way to enjoy it was indoors.

points of view

You shall not pass

steve galea

Loon Tales

I HAVE A recurring nightmare. In it, I have been captured by a mysterious enemy, and wake up handcuffed to a chair in an interrogation room where they begin asking me about top-secret information I have sworn to protect with my life.

"Where is your favourite brook trout stream?" one interrogator, the bad cop, growls.

"Brook trout stream?" I answer. "I've never heard of one."

"Hey, we're all friends here," the other, who's playing the good cop, says. "Trust me, we won't tell anyone."

"Galea, Stephen Robert, Haliburton Highlands Fly Fishing Club," I respond.

That's when the guy playing bad cop gets in my face and yells, "If you don't answer soon, you're going to wish you did."

"Galea, Stephen Robert, Haliburton Highlands Fly Fishing Club," I answer once again.

That's when the bad cop rolls a table in front of me, and places a laptop computer on it. Then he stares menacingly into my eyes and says, "Oh yeah. Well, we have just electronically transferred you enough money to buy an R.L. Winston Air 2 Max 4-weight fly rod and a Bauer RVR fly reel. All you have to do is deposit the money into your bank account in the next five minutes, before we cancel the transfer."

I look at him and growl, "You dirty son of a carp!"

For we all know he has asked the impossible. He wants a 62-year-old man to remember, not one, but two computer passwords — the first to sign onto my email account and the other to access my bank account to deposit the funds. Oh, he's a cruel monster...

It's usually at this part of the dream when I wake up bathed in a warm sweat. And also when Jenn wakes up and says, "Please tell me that's sweat."

"I was dreaming of passwords again," I say.

She just shudders.

OK, I have a problem with passwords. But not really. It's just I can never remember them, which if you ask me, makes them even more secure. Young people's passwords are known to them and perhaps a spouse or partner. Mine is known to no one, not even me.

Even better, I have developed a great, ultra-secure way of protecting my passwords. I only use them once. After that — and here's the genius part — I use the "Forgot Password" option.

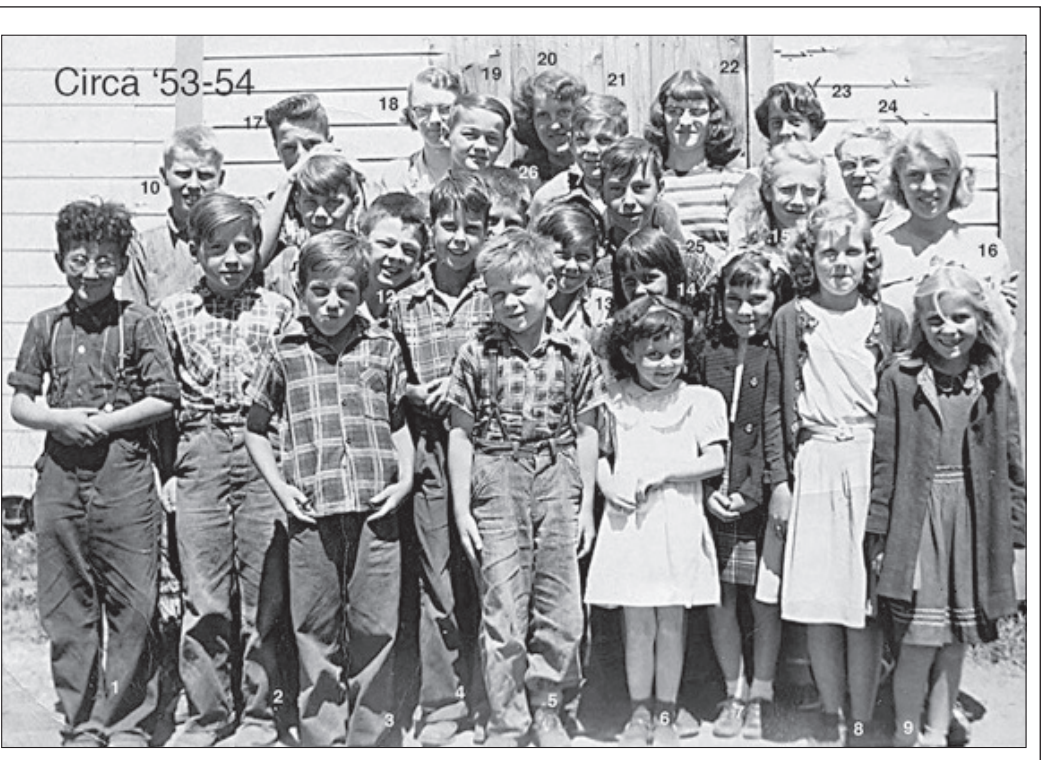
Then I am sent new information in an email or text, so I can create a new password that I will also forget seconds after I write it down on a piece of paper that I will promptly lose. One day, I imagine archeologists will recover some of these notes and be mystified as they try to decipher why the village elders of our era wrote down what seems to be a random word followed by 1234.

Oh sure, using the "Forgot Password" option takes a bit of time, but so does looking for that damn piece of paper. I just found one from 2015 yesterday.

This whole password dilemma is probably why older men and women are not allowed to join the armed forces. I could imagine myself leading a combat patrol of pissed-off older people when we come to a friendly checkpoint at night.

"Password?" a sentry yells out from the darkness, amidst the sounds of weapons being cocked.

I halt the group and ask, "Does anyone know where that piece of paper is?"



pic *of the* past

This week's pic of the past was submitted by John Jamieson of students at the Highland Grove South School. The photo is marked circa 1953-54. Students corresponding with numbers on the photo: 1. Alvin Peters, 2. Arthur Cooney, 3. Ross Covert, 4. Jim Ayotte, 5. Ron Hogan, 6. Marion Watson, 7. Helen Lewis, 8. Elsie Allen, 9. Cheryl Condon, 10. Tommy Condon, 11. Dave Ayotte, 12. Floyd Peel, 13. Allan Watson, 14. Loretta Ayotte, 15. June Foster, 16. Arlene Condon, 17. Allan Andrews, 18. Bonnie Hughey, 19. Harold Pacey, 20. Doreen Ayotte, 21, Ron Walker, 22. Tris Ogilvie, 23. Edna Ayotte, 24. Mrs. Ogilvie, 25. Arnold Cooney, 26. John Condon.

letters to the editor

No taxpayers dollars on the line for EV chargers

To the Editor:

In response to a letter last week, taxpayers are not paying to install EV Chargers in Haliburton. Aviva Canada is. Aviva is an international insurance company that is collaborating with an environmental non-profit, Earth Day Canada, to enable Canadians who want to make the climate conscious decision to switch to an EV, to feel confident that they can charge their cars in rural areas that are currently underserved by EV Charging Stations.

Aviva's global ambition is to be net zero by 2040 which is the reason that they are offering this grant.

Thank you for this opportunity to make that clarification.

Susan Hay
Haliburton

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

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Rails End Gallery welcomes a new Legacy

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"Connected by a Thread," by artist Susanne James hangs proudly at the Rails End Gallery as a part of the current Legacy exhibition. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

With over 65 pieces on display, the Legacy show offers a glimpse into a wide variety of artists and mediums.

What is your legacy?

That was the question that Laurie Jones, the curator of the Rails End Gallery in Haliburton, put out to the members of the venue.

"Is it a collective legacy?" she posed, "a legacy we have received? People are left to interpret it as they wish."

With 65 pieces adorning the walls of the historic building, the Legacy exhibition kicked off on Feb. 8. It is this year's annual Salon exhibition; meaning that it is open to all members of the gallery community.

Jones noted that the "wall-to-wall" pieces display a wide variety of artistic mediums. With the exception of blown glass, nearly every other artistic form is featured. "Traditional craft is really having a renaissance," Jones said, referencing the knitted pieces woven on the walls.

One piece is titled "Connected by a Thread," by artist Susanne James. The mixed media display is a photograph of James' grandmother, whom she never met. The frame is covered in colourful knitted shapes. "She never knew her grandmother, but she was the person who passed down the knowledge of knitting to her, through her family," said Jones.

A legacy.

And while legacy to some may be familial, to others, it looked like natural conservation of the trees and waters. It was the outline of historic buildings, or old cabins in the woods. Some artists interpreted it as food, as dance, as games, while others took a darker approach; using their pieces as warnings for future generations if certain paths are followed.

Each piece is for sale, and there is certainly something for everyone. Jones has timed the show to coincide with International Slow Art Day, which lands on April 12 this year. The concept of this day is to encourage viewers to really slow down, and take their time with each individual piece of art; sometimes for as long as 10 minutes per piece.

Jones noted that when you take space and time to absorb the pieces, there is so much more depth to interpret; something that is often passed by in an effort to keep up with this fast-paced world.

Rails End Gallery is located at 23 York Street in the village of Haliburton. For more information on hours of operation and current and upcoming shows, visit www.railsendgallery.com.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member as a Board Community Member on one of the Board's Standing Committees. At a minimum, Board Community Member should expect to devote approximately 4-6 hours of time per month, including attendance at committee meetings (about 9 per year) held in-person and/or virtually.

Annual Board Community Member recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds**.

At HHHS, we recognize and respect the contributions that a diverse team can make to our healthcare system. We welcome candidates of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities to apply. If you require assistance or accommodations in the process, please contact Michel Henry for prompt support.

How to be Considered
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Community Member Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by **March 1, 2025**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at:
www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:
Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

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Hal high sports

Basketball battles

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School boys basketball teams faced off against Norwood this past week. These games were a part of the Kawartha "A" playoffs, and both teams managed to clinch their spot in the next round against Kenner. /TIM YANO staff photographer

The junior team came out on top with a score of 66 to 39, and the seniors racked up a score of 53 to 44, both against Norwood this past week. The teams will be playing Kenner in the next round of the playoffs. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Gary Mount and Nancy Duff are two of the many stars you will see in *Riches & Ransom, Who Kidnapped Miss Purscilla Bing?* /Submitted

Jan Dahms sleeps during rehearsal. /Submitted

Loop Troupe plans fundraising dinner theatre

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

A photo of Loop Troupe members after placing first in the McDougall Community Contest and winning the $5,000 prize. /FILE

In the spring of 2023, Loop Troupe Treasurer Gill Stephen called for a meeting to discuss the revival of the Wilberforce Loop Troupe, a local theatre group, which originally formed in 1993. Following this meeting, the Loop Troupe was resurrected, spearheaded by Mary Barker. Many people came to the troupe to help either in the form of acting, or assisting with their production of 'Skit-oodles', which consisted of short skits, followed by a 30-minute play by Jan Dahms.

The performance was a success, and was even taken on tour as a one-night event to the ABC (Apsley, Burleigh, and Chandos) Seniors' Club at the North Kawartha Community Centre in Apsley.

On May 23, 2024, the Wilberforce Loop Troupe posted a video on their YouTube channel titled "VOTE FOR THE WILBERFORCE LOOP TROUPE," filmed and edited with assistance from their videographer Matt Barnett. In the video, consisting of comedic sketches, the troupe asks for votes in McDougall Insurance's Community Contest. Throughout the video, the Loop Troupe demonstrates the poor acoustics of the Lloyd Watson Community Centre. The video currently has over 200 views and the Loop Troupe was successful in winning the $5,000 prize last year.

Recently, the Loop Troupe has learned that the $5,000 will not cover the entirety of improving the sound system of the Lloyd Watson Community Centre. Barker estimates that they will need over $10,000 to change their sound system, install sound dampening, and improve the overall acoustics.

Other clubs, such as the Legion and Haliburton Rotary will benefit from improving the sound quality of the Lloyd Watson Community Centre. The space is frequently rented out for weddings and other events. With a better audio system, they hope to attract more rentals in the space. A better sound system would allow for more theatrical performances or concerts in the future.

To continue their fundraising efforts, the Loop Troupe is hosting their first ever dinner theatre event on April 5th at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre. The Loop Troupe will be performing an entirely original play written by the Loop Troupe's very own, Mary Barker. After being unable to find a play appropriate for the Loop Troupe, Barker decided to take matters into her own hands and write one herself.

The original work, titled *Riches & Ransom, Who Kidnapped Miss Purscilla Bing?* was written with the troupe's 15 actors in mind. As the first play she has written, Barker avoided other plays to ensure that her work is entirely original.

"It's a lot of fun," assures Barker. "It's a lot of light humour."

The play's setting revolves around Old Oaks Retirement Home (A play on words, like "old folks," get it?), celebrating its 50th anniversary. In the play, residents of the retirement home have invited guests from the local community to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

For this special dinner theatre performance, audience members will sit at the table with the actors during the performance, with occasional breaks for the audience to eat. The show is jam-packed with puns, jokes, and a thrilling mystery that will keep audience members on the edge of their seats.

A delicious dinner will be provided from the Legion.

After their roaring success of 'Skit-oodles,' the ABC Seniors' Club has already requested a performance of *Riches & Ransom, Who Kidnapped Miss Purscilla Bing?* at the North Kawartha Community Centre in Apsley.

Tickets for the performance are $35, which will include dinner and a show. Tickets will be available to purchase at Agnew's General Store in Wilberforce. This dinner theatre event will take place on April 5. In total, the event will be around two hours long, with doors opening around 5:30 p.m.

"Our goal is to be a Loop Troupe that has fun," said Barker. This dinner theatre event is intended to get people out of their house, provide a night of entertainment, and raise funds for a good cause which will benefit everyone in the community.

The Loop Troupe is grateful for the kind messages they have received during the McDougall Community Contest. Several members of the community have reached out to donate to the group and support the renovations. The troupe is currently working on being able to provide receipts for people's charitable donations.

Joint Statement Ontario Trails Protection Alliance (OTPA) and Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT)

Re: a collaborative approach to conservation and trail use on Crown land.

Haliburton: After meeting with key members of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) early this week, an alliance of four of Ontario's largest motorized recreational trail use organizations is now preparing to work collaboratively on plans that will protect access to trails within a proposed 100,000-hectare "corridor" linking three provincial parks and a vast network of trail systems throughout the Haliburton/ Kawartha region.

Commenting on the outcome of the February 10 meeting, Joel Castonguay, President of the 6,000-member Ontario Federation of Trail Riders (OFTR) said, "We certainly had some initial concerns when we went into the meeting, but, after a really good exchange, it's clear we've got a tremendous opportunity to protect and grow our access to Ontario's trails and the great outdoors."

Todd Hall, Chair of the Haliburton Land Trust, agreed, noting there is a lot of common ground between the land trust and the trail-use communities.

"Our objectives of maintaining ecological integrity and protecting trail use both require the protection of our natural assets. We are committed to ensuring that these natural assets are protected and access to Crown land trails by ATVs, off road motorcycles and 4WD vehicles remains. HHLT's decision to support the designation of ecologically sensitive lands as Conservation Reserves was deliberate. The designation provides enhanced protection of the natural landscape and its critical functions while recognizing and respecting other uses such as trail use. These activities are part of our rural landscape, they help generate economic activity, and they are a part of our everyday lives. HHLT commits to working collaboratively with the Alliance and other stakeholders," he explained.

Kawartha ATV Association (KATVA) President Carolyn Richards also expressed optimism stating, that by working together with HHLT, the off-road community can build a sustainable model that can be used across the province to protect trail access as Crown land designations change and conservation efforts evolve.

KATVA and the Haliburton ATV Association (HATVA) are among two of the largest ATV clubs in Ontario and have stewarded trails within the Haliburton Corridor for over 20 years.

"HATVA and KATVA look forward to working in partnership with the HHLT in offering to the motorized and non-motorized public one of the best trail systems in Ontario while also protecting our natural environment," she added.

Peter Kendall, Executive Director of the Schad Foundation, was equally optimistic, noting that a partnership with the motorized trail-use community will bring a host of benefits. "The dedicated efforts of this community are responsible for many of the world class trails we have in Ontario. We look forward to working with the motorized trail use community and leveraging their wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise to advocate for greater protection and expansion of Ontario's trails".

Going into the February 10 meeting, Peter Wood, President of the Ontario Federation of 4 Wheel Drive Recreationalists (OF4WD) questioned the need for reclassification of the General Use area crown land to a Conservation Reserve but was greatly encouraged by the desire for the Lands Trust to work with the trails and outdoor recreation community on a plan to protect our access to these important public lands. "This is a great and ground- breaking opportunity to work together with the conservation community on what we hope will be a long-term, collaborative effort."

OF4WD, the OFTR, Kawartha ATV and Haliburton ATV Association (HATVA) are all part of the province-wide Ontario Trails Protection Alliance (OTPA). All of the OTPA organizations support multi-use trail systems and have a long history of land stewardship, safety education, investment in trail development and maintenance and codes of responsibility.

"It became apparent very quickly that the OTPA can -- and should be -- a prominent partner in our efforts," concluded Luke Ridgway, Manager of the Ontario Conservation Accelerator program that is driving investment into a variety of conservation projects. "The environmental conservation and trail user communities are ultimately interested in the same thing: the long-term sustainability of our activities on the land within the forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife which brought us there in the first place," he said.

Ontario's largest Conservation Organization, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) also attended Monday's meeting. "OFAH spokesperson Matt Robbins remarked that a collaborative approach to protecting and enhancing our natural resources is not only necessary but critical to ensure our respective interests are represented and that conservation efforts are broadly supported."

Following Monday's meeting, HHLT and OTPA have agreed to share further information, including detailed trail mapping, trail user information and more, with further meetings planned to discuss protection of trail access and to set up a permanent input/ advisory role for the motorized trail use communities.

Contacts for more information:

For HHLT: Todd Hall, HHLT Chair, chair@haliburtonlandtrust.ca, 705-457-3700

For OTPA: Lisa Thompson, OTPA Chair, Lisa.thompson@oftr.ca, 705-466-2747

-Submitted

Municipality of Dysart et al

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: February 25, 2025
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, ON.
APPLICATIONS: The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: McPhee
Location: 1358 Grace River Road
Part of the Original Road Allowance Between Concession 1 and 2 and Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance along Grace Lake, Geographic Township of Harcourt, defined as Part 3, 4, 6 & 7 on Registered Plan 19R-6328 prepared by P.J. Stringer Surveying Ltd. dated May 20, 1997.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 18th day of February 2025.

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Land Information

www.haliburtonecho.ca

Walk the Line: line dancing comes to Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Karley Stevenson has a background in line dancing from her upbringing in Alberta, and hopes to bring the style of dance to the Haliburton Highlands. /photos submitted

Have you ever heard of line dancing? Despite the country-roots of the Haliburton Highlands, the traditional western dancing style isn't something that's frequently seen in the area.

But Karley Stevenson wants to change that. "I'm from Alberta," she said, "and it was very popular there, so I'd like to bring it here as well."

Stevenson noted that when she first made the move from Alberta to Ontario in 2014, many people had never heard of line dancing. And while it wasn't particularly popular in the area, she missed doing it, and thought that others may be interested in participating as well - particularly folks in her age-range.

"Being someone in my mid-30s, finding something available on the evenings or weekends is so hard," she said. "So I thought about offering something for my generation."

She noted that there are line-dancing classes that are offered through the day, but are targeted to a retired bunch, as they occur during working hours. Stevenson hopes to offer classes and sessions for people of all ages, but especially accessible to young professionals who work throughout the day.

The concept of line dancing is generally designed for a group of people, all in singular lines and participating in choreographed steps. You don't need a partner to participate, which can make the style of dance fun for anyone interested in participating.

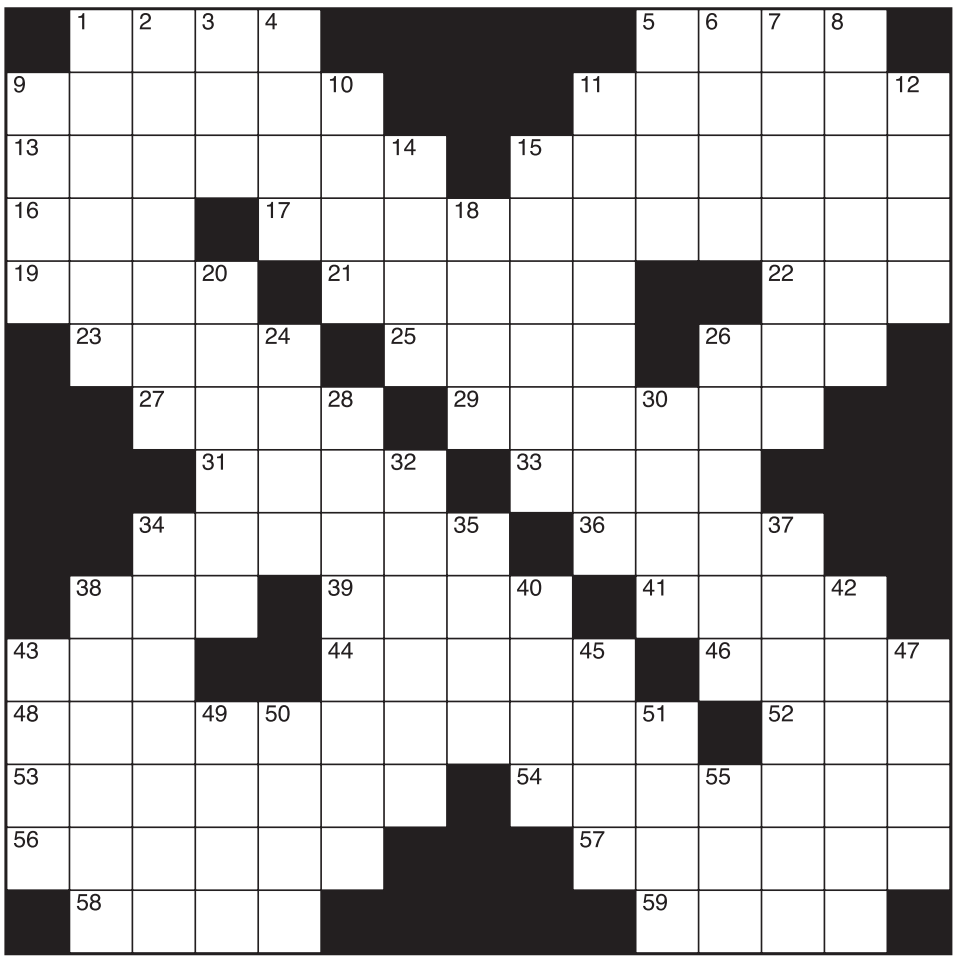
And while the choreographer walks the dancers through the steps, Stevenson said that there is a level of athleticism required to keep up. "Plan to get hot," she laughed. "It's a workout for sure."

On top of simply being a fun chance to get out and meet some new people, there are also an array of health benefits to the dance, including improved coordination and balance, increased memory and cardiovascular health, and has been seen as incredibly beneficial to aid in depression, dementia, and Alzheimer's.

Often the music seen accompanying traditional line dancing is country or western, but Stevenson said she has participated in dances with all different genres of music, so the sky's the limit.

Stevenson hopes to get her classes up and running soon. "Everything is in the works, now," she said. "I am working behind the scenes." She's currently focusing on pop-up classes and events to start increasing awareness of the dance around the community. This includes offerings at local restaurants, bars, or even special private events such as bachelorette parties. She has a series of pop-ups hosted at the West Guilford Community Centre, and has started a newsletter for folks interested in keeping up with her lessons.

For more information on line dancing, or to get in touch with Stevenson directly, visit her Instagram page @always.in.boots or email karley.e.stevenson@gmail.com.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Take heed
5. One's superior
9. Prepped meat
11. Tighten anew
13. Type of textile fiber
15. Animalistic
16. When you hope to get somewhere
17. Offender
19. Former NYC mayor Ed
21. Type of cryptocurrency
22. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
23. Herring-like fish
25. Popular PBS program
26. Congressman (abbr.)
27. Flightless Australian birds
29. Defrosted
31. Prior Yankee sensation Kevin
33. Nasal mucus
34. Some are southern
36. A place to construct
38. Popular beer brand
39. Shouts of farewell
41. Network of nerves
43. Make a mistake
44. Showed old movie
46. Body parts
48. A divisor
52. Congressional investigatory body
53. Papers
54. Most unnatural
56. Judge the worth of something
57. Makes sounds while sleeping
58. Which
59. Hungarian Violinist

CLUES DOWN
1. Pages
2. Head pain
3. A loud utterance
4. Large brown seaweed
5. HuluÕs chef Carmine
6. Greek mountain
7. Made final
8. Bar
9. Tai subgroup
10. What you eat
11. Teaches again
12. Small constellation
14. Type of berry
15. Cows fattened for meat
18. A way to hoof it
20. Exaggerated a role
24. About two
26. Long upholstered seat
28. What employees earn
30. Fiber from a coconut husk
32. Digits
34. Polish by rubbing
35. Liquid body substances
37. Furniture with open shelves
38. Edible part of a chicken
40. Satisfy
42. Tool used to remove
43. Icelandic poems
45. Swiss village
47. Drunks
49. Evergreen plant genus
50. Light precipitation
51. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
55. An informal debt instrument

Answers on page 15

Haliburton Forest Poker Run

With over 650 participants, Haliburton Forest's annual Poker Run raised over $20,000 for the Dysart fire department. The Grand Prize winner was Lacey Rankin, who won a snowmobile, which she plans on keeping, and returning to explore the trails around Haliburton Forest. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Home Game

VS

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Weapon complaint investigated at high school

On Feb. 14, at approximately 9:15 a.m. members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a weapon complaint at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton.

Officers quickly attended the location and initiated an investigation. A Lockdown order was issued by the High School. This is a step that is taken to ensure the safety of the school community while police work to resolve the situation.

Information was received that a youth was in possession of a weapon and had left the high school property. Officers were able to locate the youth a short distance away towards town, and they were taken into police custody. A knife was recovered by officers at the time of arrest. There were no injuries reported to police as a result of this incident.

As a result of the investigation, a 14-year-old of the Municipality of Dysart et Al was charged with:

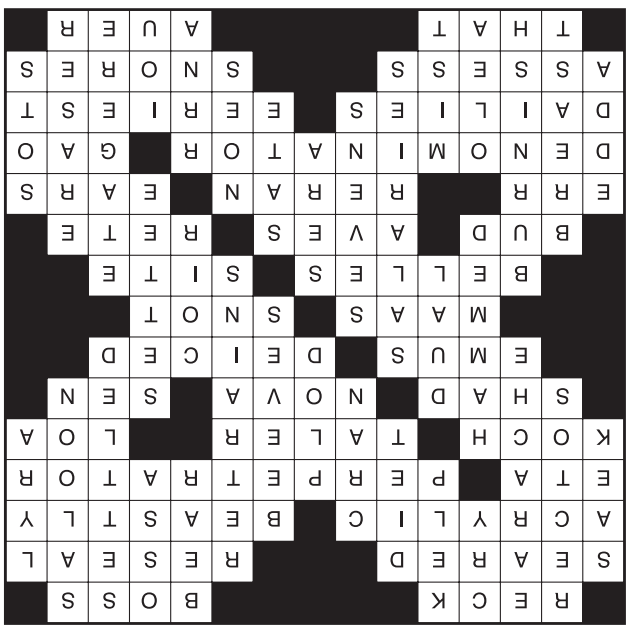
- Possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose
- Assault with a weapon
- Theft under $5000

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden at a later date to answer to the charges. The identity of the person will be withheld under the provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).

The Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting anyone with information about this incident or any other unlawful activity to call 1-888-310-1122 or 705-286-1431. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a secure web-tip at https://www.khcrimestoppers.com, where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward.

Submitted

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



WANTED

Historical photos from around Haliburton County

Preferably from before 1970

Help revive our *Pic of the Past* section by sending in your pictures. Bring them in to the Echo office at 146 Highland Street or email them to emily@haliburtonpress.com with dates and any other information.

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www.haliburtonchamber.com

Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
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The successful candidate will hold a college diploma in Business or Payroll Administration or other related field and possess 3 years of related municipal experience. The hourly wage range for this non-union position is $35.09 - $41.05. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 26, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The interview evaluation process will include a practical skills component.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

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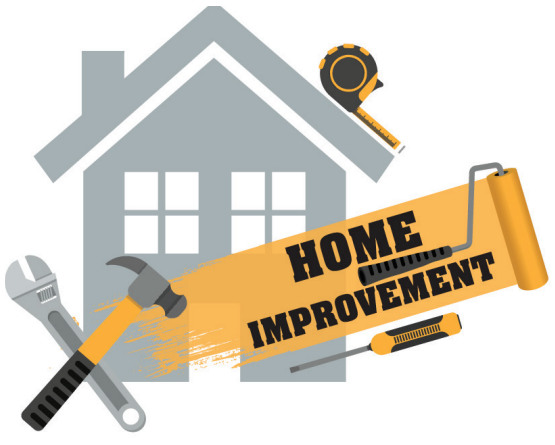

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

FUMING MAD
Opponents of uranium mining plan a public meeting to fight back

BUDGET WOES
Highlands East council must decide whether to borrow $750,000 in 2008

FAREWELL EMILY
HHSS co-op student Emily Stonehouse writes her final column for the Echo

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008
www.haliburtonecho.ca
Vol. 125 No. 6 $1.25 INCL. GST

The people have spoken

County won't close libraries in wake of overwhelming public opposition

MATT JAMES
Staff Reporter

The people have spoken and their voices were heard loud and clear.

After two public meetings on the fate of the county's libraries, the library committee is going "back to the drawing board," abandoning its original recommendation to close four of the eight libraries in Haliburton County.

The decision was made after public meetings in both Highlands East and Algonquin Highlands last week.

On Tuesday, more than 100 residents of Highlands East gathered inside the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce, thankful for the opportunity to speak to board members for the first time in the process.

In all, 14 public presentations were made in Wilberforce – only one of which supported the county's decision back in

See **Residents say** *page 2*

GREG HOEKSTRA/Echo

Back to basics

It was a blast from the past on January 23 when the Grade 3 students of Stuart Baker Elementary celebrated 'pioneer day' and experienced what school life was once like. Above, Victoria Archibald works on a math assignment using chalk and a chalkboard, while her peer Diana Lauricella (background) does the same. For more photos from pioneer day see page 8.

Courting the 2010 Summer Games

MATT JAMES
Staff Reporter

The first of a possible four-step process is complete, as warden Eleanor Harrison has submitted Haliburton County's letter of intent to host the 2010 Ontario Summer Games.

Robert Smith, the director of the Haliburton County's Economic Development and Tourism Marketing, explains why the county should share his excitement about the possibility of hosting such a prestigious event.

"It's never been done on a county-wide basis," said Smith of the games, which are played every two years.

Through Sport Alliance of Ontario, a not-for-profit provincial sport management agency, the games have historically been played in a typical urban setting where venues are relatively close together. But Smith felt that early meetings he had with the agency were quite positive.

"They're quite enthusiastic," said Smith.

Adding to Sport Alliances' positive outlook says Smith, was the fact that county council was on board, at least in the early stage of the matter.

Smith explained that the letter of intent merely shows the county's interest in hosting the event and allows the county the right to communicate with Sport Alliance; the most important matter for the county is to find out if they have the right facilities to match the needs of Sport Alliance in order to do a credible hosting job.

With the letter of intent complete the next step for the county will be to assess whether the county can facilitate such an event. At first, Smith felt that the county didn't have what was necessary to host such an event.

"But when you start to assess what we

See **Games** *page 19*

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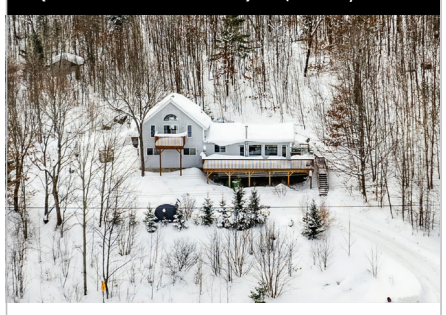

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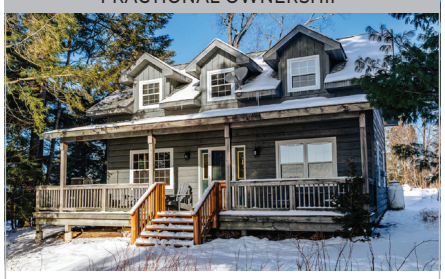

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